



December 7, 2020

Honourable Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kahlon:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Urban Development Institute – Pacific Region (UDI) and our over 950 members, I would like to congratulate you on your recent re-election victory and your promotion to Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation. UDI looks forward to working with you and your Ministry to restart British Columbia's economy and provide jobs to those who have lost them due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, the building sector is a key sector in our economy and will be critical in assisting the Province with the economic recovery, as they did after the 2008 recession. Before COVID-19, it annually contributed:

- Almost \$23 billion to the provincial GDP;
- Employed over 230,000 British Columbians; and
- Generated \$6.6 billion in revenues to governments at all levels.

Due to the efficient cooperation between our industry and your Government to keep construction sites open over the past eight months, the economic impact of COVID-19 was significantly lessened in our sector. UDI is eager to continue to partner with your Government on developing a growth and re-employment agenda as we look ahead to the next phase of the Province's economic recovery over the coming year.

I particularly welcomed hearing that you have retained your leadership over the Office of Mass Timber Implementation. Thank you once again for speaking to our members on the importance of this opportunity at our September 17 webinar on *Government Support of Mass Timber Construction*. We believe that Mass Timber projects will help British Columbia achieve our climate targets, rebuild our economy and provide job opportunities in both urban centres and forestry-dependent communities. UDI continues to hold educational webinars on how best to build with mass timber products and we look forward to working with you on this important Provincial initiative.

UDI can also assist you with boosting B.C. as a global exporter of climate solutions and low carbon technologies. We have been a long supporter of sustainable development. We were one of the original organizations that developed the *BC Energy Step Code*, and we continue to actively participate on the Energy Step Code Council. Through our education programs, we have held numerous seminars and webinars on green building best practices.

Once again, many congratulations on your re-election and new responsibilities as Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation. We look forward to working with you on how our sector can best assist you and your Ministry with building back British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne McMullin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anne McMullin
President & CEO

C.C.
Brenda Bailey, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Technology and Innovation
Bobbi Plecas, Deputy Minister, Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation